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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR BROWN: (Laugh) The other Senator Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: If Senator Dwite Pedersen would like to respond, he may. (Laugh) Yes, I'm available.

SENATOR BROWN: (Laugh) No, I already said he couldn't. (Laugh)

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Oh, okay.

SENATOR BROWN: To further the conversation about...that we were having about the...we dealt with the utilities piece of it.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yes.

SENATOR BROWN: Now there are other things within the additional budget that were requested by the university. One of those has to do with cleanup at Mead. Can you talk a little bit about what that amount is, and how it's different from the Governor? And if we allocate this money, have we fixed the problem?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I'll have to find the exact number of dollars. It's reflected in this green sheet, but I will tell you that we have resolved the issue, as far as the Mead site is concerned. As you know, the Mead site came about as a result of the university acquiring this property for agricultural purposes, and with the consent of the people that were involved at that time. There was some low-level radioactive materials that were buried out there, because they had no other place to take it, primarily from the Med Center and from research at UNL. And then the EPA came in and said, this has got to be cleaned up. So they were under a mandate to have this cleaned up. The question was how to go about doing it. The Governor had made a proposal regarding use of Environmental Trust Funds virtually completely to take care of that. We met with the director of Environmental Trust and with Senator Beutler, who was very interested in this issue, and we resolved the issue by using some General Funds and some funds from the Environmental Trust, passing through as a cleanup...super site cleanup approach. And we already had the program that we had to put certain monies into Super Fund cleanup anyway, so we've used some of this money